

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2000

Natural soda ash production in March was 841,000 metric tons, 14% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 343,000 tons, 16% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1.39 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February was 530,000

tons, 22% higher than the February 1999 level of 432,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2000 were 237,000 tons and 8,660 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through February 2000, compared with those of 1999, were as follows: production 2% lower, imports 45% higher, exports slightly higher, ending stocks 8% lower, and apparent consumption 3% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1999:			
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,370
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
November	899	230	1,290
December	884	248	1,350
Total (January-March)	2,460	XX	4,200
Year total	10,200	XX	15,900
2000:			
January	809	313	1,380
February	740	295	1,330
March	841	343	1,390
Total	2,390	XX	4,100

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 2000 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN FEBRUARY 2000 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Korea, Republic of	44,300	\$5,590	\$126
Mexico	29,900	3,290	110
Brazil	29,200	3,850	132
Japan	27,700	3,810	137
Chile	23,500	3,420	145
Thailand	16,200	1,930	119
Canada	15,500	1,260	81
Australia	13,700	1,540	112
Malaysia	13,000	1,780	137
Argentina	10,100	1,360	135
Other	14,100	1,810	129
Total	237,000	29,600	125

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ March 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2000 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	10,100	10,100	2
Aruba	--	293	293	(3/)
Australia	7,420	13,700	21,100	4
Bolivia	--	450	450	(3/)
Brazil	28,100	29,200	57,300	10
Canada	23,700	15,500	39,200	7
Chile	--	23,500	23,500	4
China	--	4,200	4,200	1
Colombia	11,300	--	11,300	2
Costa Rica	--	6,030	6,030	1
Finland	--	17	17	(3/)
Indonesia	12,400	--	12,400	2
Jamaica	1,990	--	1,990	(3/)
Japan	23,000	27,700	50,700	9
Korea, Republic of	36,600	44,300	80,900	14
Malaysia	--	13,000	13,000	2
Mexico	38,200	29,900	68,100	12
Peru	--	2,870	2,870	1
Philippines	8,500	--	8,500	2
Russia	--	144	144	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	15,000	3
South Africa	25,000	--	25,000	4
Spain	9,360	--	9,360	2
Switzerland	--	36	36	(3/)
Taiwan	26,000	--	26,000	5
Thailand	14,200	16,200	30,400	5
Trinidad and Tobago	--	19	19	(3/)
Venezuela	40,900	--	40,900	7
Vietnam	5,000	--	5,000	1
Total	327,000	237,000	564,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ March 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1999:		
February	6,620	\$762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
October	8,840	1,080
November	7,690	959
December	10,200	1,220
Total (January-February)	10,500	1,270
Year total	91,900	11,100
2000: 3/		
January	6,510	784
February	8,660	981
Total	15,200	1,770

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ March 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1999:						
February	749,000	6,620	301,000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8,810	248,000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7,990	294,000	--	24,500	571,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	234,000	--	67,800	701,000
July	911,000	7,750	289,000	11,700	--	618,000
August	803,000	6,410	406,000	--	22,700	427,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	8,840	455,000	10,300	--	432,000
November	899,000	7,690	285,000	--	34,000	655,000
December	884,000	10,200	342,000	17,900	--	535,000
Total (January-February)	1,580,000	10,500	561,000	46,300	--	988,000
Year total	10,200,000	91,900	3,620,000	--	25,300	6,740,000
2000:						
January	809,000	6,510	327,000	65,200	--	424,000
February	740,000	8,660	237,000	--	18,500	530,000
March	841,000	NA	NA	47,900	--	NA
January-February	1,550,000	15,200	564,000	46,600	--	954,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.